## NOLES TAKE HOME TOURNAMENT CROWN WITH WIN OVER ILLINOIS

For Immediate Release September 2, 2000

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Not having lost a single game throughout their entire tournament, the Lady Seminoles took on the Illinois Fighting Illini in the Championship match of the Tallahassee Democrat Florida State Tournament. With insatiable persistence, some timely hitting and an All-Tournament setter, the Noles went on to a straight-set win over the Illini, 15-11, 15-6, 15-6. The Illini were the most nationally prominent team FSU has faced thus far, receiving votes in the last AVCA Top-25 poll.

"We got off to a slow start in Game One, falling behind 0-5," FSU head coach Cecile Reynaud said. "I thought both teams played well, and were patient in the first game. Once we crawled back into it, it was a battle for which team could stay ahead."

The Noles opened up Game One in much the same fashion that they had every other match, getting behind early. The major difference in this match was that they were faced with a talented, 3-0 Illini team which would inevitably make FSU pay for its mistakes. Illinois opened the game with a 5-0 lead before Reynaud called a time out to get her team focused. The time out had an immediate impact, as FSU got the side out, followed by the team's first point. With the score stuck at 6-1, both teams traded side outs, punishing each other with hard kills. Persistence, dedication and tireless pursuit of the point got the Lady Noles back to 6-7, going on a 6-2 run. UI and FSU went point-forpoint, as the action intensified and the Noles tied the game up at eight, before eventually taking the lead at 9-8. Both teams traded points again until the score stood 12-11, FSU, when the Illini called a time out to collect themselves. With Illinois struggling to get back in the game, Norisha Campbell had a killer stop at the net, blocking down a ball by Illinois' Betsy Spicer. Jen Werrick followed with a kill to move the Noles to a point from victory, at 14-11. Werrick followed with the next two kills, getting an important side out and following with the game-winning kill.

After taking Game One, 15-11, Werrick began to open her own personal assault on the Illinois' defense. Coming through with four straight kills, she helped put FSU up 3-0 over the Illini. The duo of outside hitters Campbell and Werrick seemed to take over the game, putting the ball over the fence on every opportunity. With a little assistance from an ace by Werrick, the Garnet and Gold posted a 5-1 lead. Elizabeth Pound entered the game for the first time this season, and had an immediate impact. The sophomore had three kills right away, two for side outs and one for a point. The Noles continued to pour on the pressure on the Big Ten team, increasing their lead to seven, with an 8-1 score. Sophomore co-captain Kristin Frye began to come on strong as well, keeping the Seminoles lead at seven with a number of side out kills. Two costly mistakes tightened the score at 9-4. The Lady Seminoles continued to battle with great plays, as Frye came up with a great save off the net to Werrick for the kill. Jen Anderson overpowered the Illinois wall, stuffing the ball home for the Noles' 11<sup>th</sup> point. An error by Illinois ended the game, as the Noles went up two games to none with a 15-6 win.

With the Illini struggling to stay alive in the championship game, both teams came out with a clear will to overpower their opponent. Anderson and Campbell started things off as the duo blocked

a shot, which followed another stuff by Anderson. The Noles continued to bear-down on the Illini, breaking out to a 10-5 lead. A costly error on a long ball by Illinois put the game at 14-6, before an ace ended the game, and the tournament.

"Everyone played well, including Alex Sevillano," Reynaud said. "She is so competitive. She came here as a walk-on, and did everything we expect of our players. She worked hard, conditioned hard and earned a scholarship here."

Following the match, the All-Tournament Team was announced. The Lady Seminoles were well represented, as Jennifer Werrick and Jennifer Anderson were both named to the All-Tournament team. Alex Sevillano and Norisha Campbell added to the accolades, taking home Tournament Defensive-Specialist and MVP honors, respectively.

FSU will be back in Tully Gym to play Alabama on Monday night. The game will be tape delayed on Sunshine Network at 8:30 p.m.

## Volleyball Box Score Charleston Southern vs Florida State (Sep 02, 2000 at Tallahassee, FL)

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Referees: Char Roush, Michael Hertz

Cecile Reynaud picked up her Career 600th victory

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